

Red Cross War Relief Drive Begins; Torrance Quota Set at \$2,000

War's raging flames respect no one. Men, women and children and everything they have are being consumed in the holocaust now sweeping western Europe—many of them innocent victims of the most ruthless onslaught history has known.

The American Red Cross this week called for ten million dollars to help in mitigating the horrors of this appalling catastrophe. The quota assigned to the Los Angeles chapter and its branches is \$310,000.

The Torrance quota of this sum is \$2,000. Mrs. Flora Wright, local Red Cross chairman, learned yesterday morning, immediately she secured the cooperation of both Torrance banks and the Chamber of Commerce who agreed to serve as receiving stations for local contributions.

THANK OFFERINGS FOR REFUGEES

They will give receipts for all donations of any amount and the gifts will be promptly forwarded to the Red Cross to meet the urgent need wherever it is greatest. This city's quota is based upon its response to the Mississippi flood disaster appeal of 1937 which was generously supported here.

We are very fortunate in this country. Our homes and loved ones are not being bombed and our families are not being driven as refugees from lands dear to them. It is not too much to expect that we will be willing, as a people, to make a thank offering thru the Red Cross to help those who are not so blessed.

The honor of being the first contributor to the local war relief fund goes to Harry Blank of Harbor City whose check for \$2 was received simultaneously with the notice of the Torrance quota.

Harbor District Chambers to Push Western Avenue Extension Project

Completion of Western avenue, from Los Angeles thru Torrance and Lomita to the harbor, is expected to be placed first on a list of highway projects which the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce instructed its highway committee last Thursday to draw up for the organization's backing in the order of their importance to this district.

The Harbor Chambers will support a single project at a time, it was decided at the monthly meeting held in North Long Beach. Highway committee members indicated that they would place Western avenue at the top of the list which they will submit at the next chambers meeting.

Plans to speed up the acquisition of right-of-way for the extension of Western were made at a meeting of the committee, headed by O. C. Crow, in Los Angeles City Councilman Wilder Hartley's office yesterday. Representatives from the county and city engineers' offices and the county right-of-way office were present.

City's Motor Vehicle Tax Allocation Said \$6,060 Due from State

The city of Torrance will receive a total of \$6,060.65 as its share of the motor vehicle license tax recently collected by the state, it was announced this week by Joe Matson, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles at Sacramento.

The Torrance allotment is based on a population of 8,832 and is part of a total of \$1,308,654 awarded to Los Angeles county.

Scout Camporal in Park Scheduled

Plans are being made by Boy Scout leaders of the district for a camporal June 8 and 9 at the city park, according to E. M. Garcelon, district camping chairman. Scouts from troops in Torrance, Lomita, Keystone and Harbor City will encamp at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, June 8.

A program of Scout activities, including first aid practice, signaling and fire building has been arranged for the first day, with the public invited to visit the camp site that will be located north of the Santa Fe railroad tracks.

Individual and troop awards will be given for excellence in performance of camp activities, Garcelon said. The June camporal had originally been scheduled for last month but was postponed.

Jap Boy Lectured On Firearms and Aiming

A 15-year-old Japanese school boy was questioned at length and then dismissed with a stern warning concerning the use of firearms by local police yesterday after he was accused of firing a 22 calibre rifle too close to M. M. Bratthrud for the latter's peace of mind. Bratthrud lives at 2041 Gardena boulevard and the shooting occurred near his home Tuesday morning.

Want Ad Rhymes Contest Winners

Miss Bobbie Turner and Jack Hellanger of the Torrance city hall staff headed the Want Ad Rhymes judges for this week's rhyme offerings and selected the following as winners:

First Prize Winner
Mrs. P. S. Glatras, 1700 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, will kindly call at our Torrance office for her prize of \$1.

The Ad:
Retreads — Guaranteed ALL-PURPOSE TIRES
Have your own carcases retreaded, or we will furnish. Ric
HARRY'S TIRE SHOP,
2193 Narbonne—Lomita
The Winning Rhyme:
"When your rubber is there and your bilford is thin—
Don't take chances and ride home on the rim—
Get a guaranteed retread, to save the day—
At Harry's Tire Shop, down Narbonne Way."

Second Prize Winner
A. H. Koehler, 1732 Martina avenue, Torrance, will kindly call for two tickets to the Torrance theatre.

The Ad:
IS MOTOR OIL ROBBING YOU? Etc.
Etc. Etc. Etc. Etc. Etc.
Complete Automotive Service,
2172 Torrance Boulevard,
Phone 170—Torrance
The Winning Rhyme:
"To enjoy real thrills when climbing hills;
To escape cold chills when paying bills;
Take Ben & Mac's most friendly tip—
Try their 'NUZIP' on your next trip."

Third Prize Winner
Mrs. William Hedge, 1828 260th street, Lomita, will kindly call at our Torrance office for two tickets to the Lomita theatre.

(Continued on Page 5-A)

TORRANCE HERALD

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SECTION A

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 16 PAGES

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1940

PER COPY 5c

Powell Ousts Stroh, Asks Grand Jury Probe

WANT ZONING ORDINANCE TIGHTENED

Public Wedding May be Feature of Factory Frolic

Further progress was made on plans for the 1940 Factory Frolic at a general public meeting held Monday night at the Chamber of Commerce and attended by about 20 local residents. One of the outstanding suggestions made for the community festival was that offered by Mrs. Auguste R. Barnett of 2007 Andrea avenue. She reported that she knew of a well-known local young couple who intend to be married in September and would be willing to be the principals in a public ceremony during the Frolic.

"I cannot give you their names now," Mrs. Barnett said, "but I am certain they would consent to a public wedding as a feature of the Frolic if they were asked to be the principals."

The suggestion was approved and General Chairman L. J. Gilmeister said he would take it up with his executive committee to see if it could be included in the Frolic program.

John Shidler, who has charge of the allocation of concession space on El Prado, which will again be the scene of the community celebration, is about the busiest member of the executive committee these days. He is awarding concession space on the basis of "first come, first served" and has already signed up more than a dozen local organizations for choice spots along the Frolic street.

Concessions are being limited to operation by local people for the benefit of non-profit local organizations, he said. There will be no outsiders permitted to set up stands to the detriment of Torrance groups. The only imported features will be the various rides, such as merry-go-round, ferris wheel and children's rides, and these will pay a percentage into the Frolic organization to help defray the cost of the celebration.

The next Frolic meeting will be held Tuesday night, May 27, at 7:30 o'clock and this will also be open to the public for suggestions to make the program from Sept. 28 to 28 as interesting as possible.

Whittier Men to Tell Rotarians Benefits of Boys' Club Activities

Police Chief O. C. Smith of Whittier will outline the "Boys' Club" activities in this city which have done so much to reduce juvenile delinquency tonight at the dinner-meeting of the Torrance Rotary club. Chief Smith's talk will be followed by an address by Mr. Wagner, instructor in the Whittier Boys' Club and high school.

These clubs are in existence in several nearby communities and organizations of a similar group was seriously considered here late in 1939 but since then nothing has been done toward the project. They have for their purpose the reclaiming of underprivileged and wayward boys by means of supervised and directed recreational and vocational guidance.

MARCH OF RIMES

—THUNDERING HEARD—By H. F. NOAKE

Election year, and coming soon, is hokum from a thousand throats, to haunt us, morning, night and noon, and all just for a mess of votes—What fiery words will then be said, what promises they're going to voice, each speaker out to knock 'em dead, and be declared the people's choice,—

Republicans will make it plain this country's heading for decay, but if they get control again, once more we'll sing "Oh Happy Day."—Meanwhile the Democratic band will bugle for its brightest star and guide us to the promised land in four more years with F.D.R.—When windbags cease, and none parade, and voters get the final score, the chances are we'll make the grade about the same as heretofore.—We'll still have gout and rheumatiz, Durante's nose and Dietrich's legs; we'll still enjoy Professor Quiz, and Grandpa Snaazy trying eggs.

Public Hearing Indicates General Approval of Law

Some "tightening" of the proposed city-wide zoning ordinance to conform to the desires of property owners expressed at the public hearing Monday night will be necessary by the Torrance city council and City Planning Commission before that important measure is finally adopted here.

"Vogue Bold" is Name of Herald's New Head Type Shown Here

With this edition The Herald begins heading most of its news articles with a brand-new style of type. It is known as Vogue Bold and was recently designed by one of America's foremost type-casters.

The New York Post a few weeks ago appeared in a new "dress," conceived by the famed Norman Bel Geddes. He selected Vogue for the headline type.

Week's Building Totals \$7,610

New building, which included two new homes, started in Torrance this week amounts to \$7,610, according to records at the city engineer's office where building permits were issued to:

A. Kimura for a six-room frame house at 2220 Lincoln avenue, \$2,000; A. B. Stagner and J. Saké for a 11 by 115-foot building to house chinchillas at 3880 Newton street in Waleria, \$200; F. H. and Lois C. Clarke for a six-room frame stucco house and double garage at 1716 Waven avenue, \$4,250; W. E. Laven for a glassed-in front porch and changing three windows at 1809 Arlington, \$200; A. B. Kropke, Los Angeles, for sealing the front porch and installing new underpinning and footings at 1740 Andrea avenue, \$160; L. Kamei for a frame moved-in house, lath house and greenhouse at 18715 Western avenue, \$800.

Coastal Defense Road Petitioned

Petitions bearing 561 signatures and asking that an alternate highway be constructed southerly from Santa Monica on Trolleyway and Pacific avenue, and continued southerly thru the coastal towns for coastal defense and development purposes were filed yesterday with the board of supervisors.

The Venice Improvement Association, which forwarded the petitions, stated that similar petitions were in circulation in Playa del Rey, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates and in San Pedro.

Opposition was expressed in the petition to the proposed construction of the recreational or state highway 163 along the ocean front from Navy to Windward street as now planned. Earl W. Russell, president, filed the petitions with the supervisors.

Rare Fly-Devouring Lily on Exhibit in Herald Office Window

Altho it cannot be called pretty or attractive, a rare Egyptian lily blossom, cultivated by Mrs. Cora Bohrer in her garden at 2227 Plaza del Amo, has a certain exotic charm in its massive dark red mouth.

It is on exhibit in a window at The Herald office now.

According to Mrs. Bohrer, the plant is of the carnivorous type because it has a penchant for flies, devouring insects deep down in its throat. Emerging from this gastronomical region is a 13-inch spike of very dark purple.

Extended Phone Service Planned in Harbor Area

Extended area telephone service for subscribers in the Harbor district that will enable them to place calls over a wide sector embracing possibly 10 communities without a toll charge is being planned by the Southern California Telephone Company, it was revealed by District Manager Fred W. Smith today.

The new service is expected to be put into effect about September and the area will embrace Torrance, Waleria, Lomita, Harbor City, San Pedro, Wilmington, Rolling Hills, Redondo Beach, Long Beach and possibly Compton, it is reported. The harbor area will thus enjoy phone service comparable to that now rendered by the extended area service between Los Angeles and its contiguous territory, Smith said.

According to the district manager, the new service will be optional and will be supplied to subscribers asking for it at a slight increase in the monthly rate. Smith said the proposed service should be a boon to harbor area communications.

Home Building in Torrance on Way to New Record

Bulk of insured mortgage business in the city of Torrance thru the years has appeared in the new construction category, with the past 12-month period confined entirely to new homes to be built under FHA inspection, according to the report of Wilson G. Bingham, Southern California district director, Federal housing administration.

New construction mortgages reached their peak quarterly volume during the first quarter of this year when 11 mortgages valued at \$38,200 were accepted for insurance by the district office, the report shows. This compares with five new construction cases for \$19,900 in the previous quarter, and nine valued at \$30,400 in the first quarter of 1939.

While 1939 registered the peak (Continued on Page 4-A)

PLANTS STOLEN

Fifty plants which she had just set out in the parkway in front of her home were uprooted and stolen Saturday night, Mrs. R. R. Smith of 2004 Carson street, reported to police.

Still Time to Get in Federal Census

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Mail Blank Form at Once If You've Been Missed

Have you been enumerated for the Federal Census? If you have not been called on, please fill out the following blank form and send it either to Supervisor Kelly or the Chamber of Commerce AT ONCE. It is imperative that every local resident be counted by enumerators now engaged in making a final checkup of this district.

If the census taker has missed you, telephone the Chamber of Commerce, 881, or the City Hall, 627, or fill out and mail the following blank:

CORNELIUS KELLY,
Supervisor of the Census,
City Hall, 1519 E. 133rd St.
Watts, California.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have not been counted in the 16th decennial census of population which has just been taken in this community. In addition to myself there are _____ members of my family who have been omitted.

Signed _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____
Former Address _____
Date of Change _____

Note: If you have moved to the above address since April 1, 1940, please give the following information:

Fails to Get Judge Lessing Dismissed Or Ashton Appointed Police Chief as Crowd of 200 Jams Council Chamber

Charging them with responsibility for an alleged "shortage" of about \$1,200 which he said had later "been made good," Councilman George V. Powell Tuesday night demanded that the city council remove City Judge Robert Lessing and Police Chief John Stroh from office, install

Accused Officers Reply to Powell Ouster Charges

City Judge Robert Lessing and Police Chief John Stroh, accused by Councilman Powell of "shortages" in their funds collected for the city and later "made good," yesterday issued the following statements:

LESSING: "The charges made by Powell relative to my office are entirely false. This will be proven by the investigation which I am told is to take place and which I welcome. This investigation should put a stop to the vicious campaign of slander indulged in by a politically greedy group during the past few weeks."

"It seems obvious to me that this latest move of Powell's is simply an attempt to discredit the entire past administration of the City of Torrance. It is unfortunate that Torrance will be compelled to suffer the resulting uncompensated publicity for no other reason than to satisfy political ambition."

STROH: "My books are cleared every day by me. My books are 100 percent okay. I've got a receipt, signed by the late Deputy City Clerk L. O. Stevens for \$550 which I kept on his instructions when this asserted discrepancy in public funds was discovered. I turned it in to Stevens later and have his receipt dated April 28, 1939 for \$550. That sum represents bail and fines received following a raid on a local gambling place early in April. I hope they do have a grand jury investigation."

Woman Passenger in Auto Injured

A 66-year-old woman was slightly injured last Sunday afternoon when a car in which she was riding was assertedly struck from the rear by another speeding machine. The victim was Mrs. Mary Struebin of Los Angeles, who was riding with L. C. Dean, also of Los Angeles. Dean took her to the Centinela hospital for treatment, according

1 KILLED and 33 Injured in Auto Collisions here to date 1940.

Dean told local officers he was "coming to a stop on Hawthorne avenue near Lomita boulevard" when his machine was struck in the rear by a car operated by Edward T. Campbell of Los Angeles, who, according to Dean, "did not slacken his high rate of speed."

When a left rear tire blew out, a car being driven west on Highway 101 in Waleria by Mrs. Franklin E. Blanchard of Santa Monica, turned over and was badly damaged Saturday night, police reported. Mrs. Blanchard was unhurt.

Million and Half Voters in County Estimated for November Election

Registration for the November election is expected to reach 1,375,000, on the basis of calculations made by county budget experts in computing the amount of money to place in next year's budget.

Elections will cost the county taxpayers \$1,424,539 this year, as against \$960,173 for the current year.

The heavy increase, which will account for about six cents on the general county tax levy, is due to unprecedented registration and to an increase in the number of precincts throughout the county, it was explained.

Sergeant Ernest Ashton as Stroh's successor and request a grand jury investigation into the public accounts of the judge and police head.

He failed to get Lessing's dismissal by a three-to-two vote, was successful by the same count in reducing Stroh to his former rank of captain, was blocked in advancing Ashton when his motion died for lack of a second and obtained a four-to-one favorable vote on his grand jury probe.

Councilman Vern Babcok, newest member of the municipal board, proposed Sergeant Frank Schumacher for the position of police chief and this was approved four-to-one — Powell voting no. One of the largest crowds, more than 200, ever to attend a council session was present for the anticipated "fireworks." The audience loudly applauded when the move to oust Lessing failed.

Reads From Statement.
And when Chief Stroh was demoted, only one spectator voiced approval. He was William H. Klusman, former mayor who later launched into a sweeping denunciation of almost every public official and their acts.

Reading from a prepared statement, Powell said he learned of the "shortage in the police department" some eight or nine months ago and that "it had been paid back." He did not mention why he did not investigate the report then. In part, his hurriedly read statement whose contents was evidently well-known to other members of the council, was as follows:

"I've an unpleasant proposition to put before this council and the people in regard to the police and city judge department. These are the facts I've gathered. However, some don't agree with me but we're here to protect the interests of the public no matter who it hits. Some eight or nine months ago I heard of a shortage in the police department and that the money had been paid back.

Queries City Auditor
"I was not informed of this at the time it happened. I saw Mrs. Leech (city treasurer) about it and she said so far as she knew there was nothing to the report. However, she said she had not seen the books as they were kept in the city clerk's office. I contacted the auditing department and found there were no returns from the police judge department.

"Four weeks ago I saw (Mayor then councilman) McGuire on this matter and learned that McGuire knew Lessing was short in his accounts and had made it up. McGuire said it amounted to more than \$900. Last Saturday I saw Auditor (C. J.) Rambo about the matter and learned the discrepancy amounted to more than \$1,200 and found more than \$400 of it was traced to the police department and that this amount had also been made good.

"Rambo reported it to Tolson (Continued on Page 5-A)

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